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Title:

To Mr Tony Baker, Premier's Department: Sunday Mail enquiry - housing shortage

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TO MR. TONY BAKER, PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT.

SUNDAY MAIL ENQUIRY - HOUSING SHORTAGE.

Over the past two years the Housing Trust has received applications for rental houses at the highest rate since its inception. During 1971 more than 10,000 families applied to the Trust for rental accommodation.

The vast majority of the families applying to the Trust just cannot afford to buy their own houses or even pay the relatively high rents that prevail today.

A recent Income Study performed by the Trust revealed that more than 53% (or 1,031) of families housed in rental houses during the past six months were in receipt of an income of less than \$60.00 per week and more than 28% (or 557) were earning \$50.00 or less per week. 166 families were in receipt of incomes less than \$40.00 per week.

These families can only turn to the Trust for assistance and the numbers waiting, as with all other Australian Housing Commissions, is ~~substantial~~ substantial.

Generally speaking, a family applying now for rental accommodation in the metropolitan area could expect to wait anything from 2½ to 3½ years before the Trust would be able to assist.

During 1971 the Trust built 2,333 houses and flats throughout the State and this figure reveals that Housing Trust production has increased by 41.3% over the past two years.

The Trust relies extensively on vacancies occurring from its existing 35,000 rental houses to assist those requiring rental houses. During 1971 housing was provided for 6,050 families throughout South Australia. This means that each week the Trust has been able to house an average of 116 families.

In its rental houses and flats the Trust in 1971 assisted 4,675 families compared with 4,225 in 1970; an increase of 10.6%.

The number of families who purchased houses during the past year under the rental purchase plan or with the assistance of bank finance was much the same as in 1970. During 1971, 1,375 families were housed under these schemes compared with 1,350 in the previous year.

27th January, 1972.